

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-5 and 10 have been amended without prejudice. Claims 2-10 and 31-50 remain pending in the application.

The Office Action stated claims 31-50 were allowed.

The Office Action stated claim 4 was allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 4 was amended without prejudice.

The Office action stated the title of the invention is not descriptive and that a new title was required. The title has been amended without prejudice.

The Office Action stated claims 1 and 3 were objected to because informalities. Claim 1 was canceled without prejudice. Claim 3 has been amended without prejudice to now read "an incision".

The Office Action stated claims 1-3, 5 and 7-10 were rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donofrio (USPN 6,277,065) in view of Adams (2003/0018236). Claim 1 was canceled without prejudice. Claim 2, 3, 5 and 10 were amended without prejudice to now depend from allowable claim 4. Claims 6-9 depend from amended claim 5. Applicants believe the enclosed amendment renders the rejection moot.

The Office Action stated claim 6 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donofrio (USPN 6,277,065) in view of Adams (2003/0018236) and in further view of Barthel (2004/0015052). Claims 6 depends from amended claim 5, which now depends from allowable claim 4. Applicants believe the enclosed amendment renders the rejection moot.

Support for this amendment is clearly found in the application as originally filed.
No new matter is presented.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. After amending claims as set forth above, claims 2-10 and 31-50 remain pending in the application and are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.


A request for a one (1) month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) has been filed with this amendment.

If the Examiner comes to believe that a telephone conversation may be useful in addressing any remaining open issues in this case, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned agent at 763-391-9867.

Please charge any additional required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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